

CLAIMS

- Sub B4
C1
1. Dispensing device of portable terminals for acquiring product data in a shopping centre, comprising:
- a plurality of static cradles for a corresponding
- 5 plurality of portable terminals adapted to be withdrawn and used by the customers of a shopping centre for acquiring product data;
- means for identifying each customer enabled to the use of the portable terminals;
- 10 - means for communicating to each identified customer a terminal to be withdrawn for carrying out the product data acquisition;
- a data control and processing unit adapted to control the above identification and communication means of/to the
- 15 customer and to process the product data acquired through said terminals;
- characterised in that said plurality of cradles, said identification and communication means of/to the customer and said control unit are housed into a single container,
- 20 and in that said plurality of cradles is housed into a substantially flat portion of said container provided in close proximity of the customer identification means so as to allow them to immediately and easily access to said plurality of terminals.
- 25 2. Dispensing device according to claim 1, wherein said terminal housing portion is substantially horizontal.
- a
3. Dispensing device according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein said terminal housing portion comprises a box-shaped body including a plurality of compartments constituting said
- 30 plurality of terminal cradles.
4. Dispensing device according to claim 3, wherein each compartment of said plurality of compartments is adapted to house a terminal of said plurality of terminals and comprises locking/unlocking means of the terminal housed
- 35 therein.

Sub B²⁴ → the same.

a

a

12. Dispensing device according to ~~any one of the previous~~
~~claims~~, wherein the customer identification means comprises
 at least any one of the following means: a magnetic card
 5 reader, a smart card reader, a bar-code card reader, an
 optical receiver, a radio or mobile phone receiver, a
 fingerprint reader, a fingerprint or retina detector, a
 device for entering a numerical code, a voice detector.

claim 1

a

a

13. Dispensing device according to ~~any one of the previous~~
~~claims~~, wherein the means for communicating to identified
 customers the terminals to be withdrawn comprises at least
 any one of the following means: visual communication means
 on a display or monitor, visual communication means in the
 proximity of each cradle of said plurality of cradles,
 15 sound or voice communication means, terminal lifting means
 provided into each cradle of said plurality of cradles.

claim 1

a

a

14. Dispensing device according to ~~any one of claims from 1~~
~~to 13~~, wherein the communication means to the identified
 customers of the terminals to be withdrawn provide
 20 marketing and/or promotional information and/or discount
 vouchers.

claim 1

a

a

15. Dispensing device according to ~~any one of the previous~~
~~claims~~, also comprising data transmission and/or reception
 means to and from optical and/or radio-type terminals.

claim 1

a

a

16. Dispensing device according to ~~any one of the previous~~
~~claims~~, wherein said container comprises a charge/discharge
 circuit of the terminal batteries.

claim 3

a

a

17. Dispensing device according to ~~any one of claims from 3~~
~~to 16~~, wherein each compartment comprises at least one
 30 sensor for indicating the presence and/or correct
 arrangement of the terminal into the compartment.

claim 1

a

a

18. Dispensing device according to ~~any one of the previous~~
~~claims~~, wherein said container comprises means for printing

Sub B²⁴

tickets and/or information and/or marketing promotion
coupons and/or discount vouchers.

19. Integrated system for the automatic dispensing of portable terminals for acquiring product data in a shopping centre, characterised in that it comprises:

- at least one dispensing device of portable terminals for acquiring product data in a shopping centre;
- a control station of said at least one terminal dispensing device;
- a connection network between said at least one terminal dispensing device and said control station so as to allow the exchange of information between them.

20. System according to claim 19, wherein said at least one
terminal dispensing device is a dispensing device according
15 to any one of claims from 1 to 18.

21. System according to claim 19 ~~or 20~~, wherein said control station is in remote position with respect to said at least one terminal dispensing device.

22. System according to claim 21, wherein said connection
20 network is a wireless local network.

23. System according to claim 21, wherein said connection network is a geographic network.

24. Integrated system for selling products in a shopping centre through the use of portable terminals, characterised in that it comprises:

~~claim 19~~ an integrated system for dispensing terminals according to ~~any one of claims from 19 to 23;~~

- 30 - means for downloading the products data acquired through the terminals;
- means for computing, as a function of the acquired data, an amount to be paid.

25. System according to claim 24, wherein said means for downloading the product data acquired through the terminals

1. **Introduction**
 2. **Background**
 3. **Methodology**
 4. **Results**
 5. **Discussion**
 6. **Conclusion**
 7. **References**
 8. **Appendix**
 9. **Index**
 10. **Table of Contents**
 11. **Abstract**
 12. **Summary**
 13. **Key Words**
 14. **Keywords**
 15. **Subject Headings**
 16. **Classification**
 17. **Indexing**
 18. **Keywords**
 19. **Subject Headings**
 20. **Classification**
 21. **Indexing**
 22. **Keywords**
 23. **Subject Headings**
 24. **Classification**
 25. **Indexing**
 26. **Keywords**
 27. **Subject Headings**
 28. **Classification**
 29. **Indexing**
 30. **Keywords**
 31. **Subject Headings**
 32. **Classification**
 33. **Indexing**
 34. **Keywords**
 35. **Subject Headings**
 36. **Classification**
 37. **Indexing**
 38. **Keywords**
 39. **Subject Headings**
 40. **Classification**
 41. **Indexing**
 42. **Keywords**
 43. **Subject Headings**
 44. **Classification**
 45. **Indexing**
 46. **Keywords**
 47. **Subject Headings**
 48. **Classification**
 49. **Indexing**
 50. **Keywords**
 51. **Subject Headings**
 52. **Classification**
 53. **Indexing**
 54. **Keywords**
 55. **Subject Headings**
 56. **Classification**
 57. **Indexing**
 58. **Keywords**
 59. **Subject Headings**
 60. **Classification**
 61. **Indexing**
 62. **Keywords**
 63. **Subject Headings**
 64. **Classification**
 65. **Indexing**
 66. **Keywords**
 67. **Subject Headings**
 68. **Classification**
 69. **Indexing**
 70. **Keywords**
 71. **Subject Headings**
 72. **Classification**
 73. **Indexing**
 74. **Keywords**
 75. **Subject Headings**
 76. **Classification**
 77. **Indexing**
 78. **Keywords**
 79. **Subject Headings**
 80. **Classification**
 81. **Indexing**
 82. **Keywords**
 83. **Subject Headings**
 84. **Classification**
 85. **Indexing**
 86. **Keywords**
 87. **Subject Headings**
 88. **Classification**
 89. **Indexing**
 90. **Keywords**
 91. **Subject Headings**
 92. **Classification**
 93. **Indexing**
 94. **Keywords**
 95. **Subject Headings**
 96. **Classification**
 97. **Indexing**
 98. **Keywords**
 99. **Subject Headings**
 100. **Classification**
 101. **Indexing**
 102. **Keywords**
 103. **Subject Headings**
 104. **Classification**
 105. **Indexing**
 106. **Keywords**
 107. **Subject Headings**
 108. **Classification**
 109. **Indexing**
 110. **Keywords**
 111. **Subject Headings**
 112. **Classification**
 113. **Indexing**
 114. **Keywords**
 115. **Subject Headings**
 116. **Classification**
 117. **Indexing**
 118. **Keywords**
 119. **Subject Headings**
 120. **Classification**
 121. **Indexing**
 122. **Keywords**
 123. **Subject Headings**
 124. **Classification**
 125. **Indexing**
 126. **Keywords**
 127. **Subject Headings**
 128. **Classification**
 129. **Indexing**
 130. **Keywords**
 131. **Subject Headings**
 132. **Classification**
 133. **Indexing**
 134. **Keywords**
 135. **Subject Headings**
 136. **Classification**
 137. **Indexing**
 138. **Keywords**
 139. **Subject Headings**
 140. **Classification**
 141. **Indexing**
 142. **Keywords**
 143. **Subject Headings**
 144. **Classification**
 145. **Indexing**
 146. **Keywords**
 147. **Subject Headings**
 148. **Classification**
 149. **Indexing**
 150. **Keywords**
 151. **Subject Headings**
 152. **Classification**
 153. **Indexing**
 154. **Keywords**
 155. **Subject Headings**
 156. **Classification**
 157. **Indexing**
 158. **Keywords**
 159. **Subject Headings**
 160. **Classification**
 161. **Indexing**
 162. **Keywords**
 163. **Subject Headings**
 164. **Classification**
 165. **Indexing**
 166. **Keywords**
 167. **Subject Headings**
 168. **Classification**
 169. **Indexing**
 170. **Keywords**
 171. **Subject Headings**
 172. **Classification**
 173. **Indexing**
 174. **Keywords**
 175. **Subject Headings**
 176. **Classification**
 177. **Indexing**
 178. **Keywords**
 179. **Subject Headings**
 180. **Classification**
 181. **Indexing**
 182. **Keywords**
 183. **Subject Headings**
 184. **Classification**
 185. **Indexing**
 186. **Keywords**
 187. **Subject Headings**
 188. **Classification**
 189. **Indexing**
 190. **Keywords**
 191. **Subject Headings**
 192. **Classification**
 193. **Indexing**
 194. **Keywords**
 195. **Subject Headings**
 196. **Classification**
 197. **Indexing**
 198. **Keywords**
 199. **Subject Headings**
 200. **Classification**
 201. **Indexing**
 202. **Keywords**
 203. **Subject Headings**
 204. **Classification**
 205. **Indexing**
 206. **Keywords**
 207. **Subject Headings**
 208. **Classification**
 209. **Indexing**
 210. **Keywords**
 211. **Subject Headings**
 212. **Classification**
 213. **Indexing**
 214. **Keywords**
 215. **Subject Headings**
 216. **Classification**
 217. **Indexing**
 218. **Keywords**
 219. **Subject Headings**
 220. **Classification**
 221. **Indexing**
 222. **Keywords**
 223. **Subject Headings**
 224. **Classification**
 225. **Indexing**
 226. **Keywords**
 227. **Subject Headings**
 228. **Classification**
 229. **Indexing**
 230. **Keywords**
 231. **Subject Headings**
 232. **Classification**
 233. **Indexing**
 234. **Keywords**
 235. **Subject Headings**
 236. **Classification**
 237. **Indexing**
 238. **Keywords**
 239. **Subject Headings**
 240. **Classification**
 241. **Indexing**
 242. **Keywords**
 243. **Subject Headings**
 244. **Classification**
 245. **Indexing**
 246. **Keywords**
 247. **Subject Headings**
 248. **Classification**
 249. **Indexing**
 250. **Keywords**
 251. **Subject Headings**

Sub B²⁴ are housed in the terminal dispensing device.

26. System according to claim 24, wherein said means for downloading the product data acquired through the terminals are provided in remote position with respect to the terminal dispensing device.

claim 24

27. System according to ~~any one of claims from 24 to 26~~, further comprising at least one cash register for the payment of said amount.

claim 24

28. System according to ~~any one of claims from 24 to 27~~, further comprising means for charging the amount to be paid directly on the customer's bank account.

claim 24

29. System according to ~~any one of claims from 24 to 28~~, wherein at least a portion of the terminals used for acquiring the product data is dispensed to the customers for personal use.

claim 24

30. System according to ~~any one of claims from 24 to 28~~, wherein at least a portion of the terminals used for acquiring the product data belongs to the customers.

claim 29

31. System according to ~~any one of claims 29 or 30~~, further comprising means for allowing the automatic identification of the customers through said terminals.

claim 29

32. System according to ~~any one of claims from 29 to 31~~, wherein said at least one portion of terminals is arranged for exchanging information with the control unit through a wireless connection network.

claim 29

33. System according to ~~any one of claims from 29 to 32~~, wherein said at least one portion of terminals is arranged for receiving visual and/or voice marketing and/or promotional information and/or discount vouchers.

claim 28

34. System according to ~~claims 28 and 29~~, wherein said means for charging the amount to be paid directly on the customer's bank account is controlled through a terminal of

